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**DeNUCCI SAYS QUINSIGAMOND'S INVENTORY
IRREGULARITIES RESULT IN MISSING MERCHANDISE**

State Auditor Joe DeNucci reported today that Quinsigamond Community College needs to improve its inventory controls so it can properly account for property and equipment valued at more than \$3.4 million.

DeNucci's audit disclosed that the Worcester college failed to safeguard and account for its property and fixed assets and to follow the required procedures for the disposal of surplus materials. For example, the audit's test of 28 regular inventory items found that more than half of the goods could not be located. The missing items included a baseball pitching machine (\$1,329); a Life-Pac defibrillator (\$5,434); 2 two-way radios (total of \$2,454); a refrigerator (\$1,875), and a Panasonic camcorder (\$1,225).

Other inventory irregularities uncovered by DeNucci's audit included the disposal of a paint machine worth \$1,170 without the approval of the state's Surplus Property Officer; the failure to tag five items, including a \$54,000 X-ray machine; and the failure to notify the Auditor's Office of two items as required by state law: an overhead projector (\$2,600) and a balance scale (\$1,045), that could not be found by the college during its regular inventory count.

DeNucci's review found additional problems in the college's information technology (IT) inventory. Six items, including a super microcomputer valued at \$12,230, could not be located, and the college failed to report the missing materials to the Auditor's Office. A number of other IT items were either misplaced or improperly tagged.

"The college should comply with the state's inventory requirements to protect its property against possible loss, theft, or misuse," said DeNucci.

The college replied that it intends to implement Auditor DeNucci's recommendations.